

International Permaculture Education Network News May 2018

Hello and welcome to the very first quarterly newsletter of IPEN!
There's plenty of good news to share, so let's get on with it ...



General News

IPEN international survey of permaculture education - a huge thank you if you participated in IPEN's survey of permaculture education around the world - the extremely useful and interesting results are summarised [here](#).

The [IPEN Webpages](#) (currently hosted on the UK Permaculture Association) have been refreshed and updated, and we will steadily add more resources, information and functionality. We plan to have an independent website in 2018/19.

IPEN has been short listed in the Young Projects category of the Spring Prize by LUSH and Ethical Consumer. The team for this event have also recently commissioned us to produce education focused **case studies of projects across the globe**, starting with some of last year's award winners. See <https://www.permaculture.org.uk/ipen/education-resources> where we have posted the first case studies with more to follow in the near future. They are very inspiring, a great example of what can be achieved!

IPEN at IPC India 2017: The need for IPEN was identified at the 2015 International Permaculture Convergence, in London. Lachlan McKenzie attended IPC 2017 in India with his IPEN hat on, one of several hats he wore there! It went very well, we gathered lots of new contacts, had great input from people from many countries and a lot of interest in i-LANDS (see below) and teacher training. A general summary of the IPC and IPEN's activities is [here](#).

IPEN at other convergences: Lachlan, together with Ben Habib, presented about IPEN, CoLab (see below) and PIRN (Permaculture International Research Network) at the recent Australasian Convergence. Steve will attend the European Convergence in Eire (Ireland) in the summer.



An IPEN discussion group at the IPC India global CoLab session



At the Australasian Permaculture Convergence brainstorming IPEN potential activities and actions

Priorities in 2018

We have a set of clear priorities for 2018. These include:

IPEN Website - to significantly improve access to and sharing of resources, networking, etc.

IPEN Status - IPEN's temporary initial status is as a partner of Permaculture Association Britain. Their help is enabling IPEN to develop, whilst remaining an

independent body. In 2018/19 IPEN will move towards becoming a fully independent entity.

Responding to the IPEN survey results – we hope you have read the [initial results](#). We will be undertaking further in-depth analysis to further informing and refining our priorities to match the needs and opportunities that respondents identified.

Core Curricula - is an important area of work (with some initial examples [here](#)). A Working Group will collate the existing best practise examples of Core Curriculum (i.e. Introductory; PDC; Teacher Training; Diploma) and then work get them translated to a wider range of languages, working with relevant international, national and regional permaculture networks and organisations.

iLAND Centres – there is a strong enthusiasm for the promotion of iLAND (International Learning and Demonstration) centres, as permaculture projects linked with a range of teaching activities – for example in Africa, Asia and Latin America – more info on this in the next newsletter.

Teaching Resources – our initial Education Resources page is [here](#) - we will continue to add to our list of open source and appropriate teaching resources - please let us know about good education resources to share. In the coming months we aim to enable more resource sharing between IPEN contacts and beyond. Here is a recent example of an high quality introductory Caribbean permaculture film, [Quiet Revolution](#).

Teacher Training – the Survey clarified the need to support teacher training internationally, so IPEN plans to assist progress in this area, particularly for non-English and culturally specific training – again, more on this coming soon.

Translation – anyone who can help with translation of Core Curricula and / or Teaching Resources please get in touch – we need people who are fluently bilingual (e.g. English as a second language), as well as fluent in the language

of permaculture of course.

Working groups - in addition to the actions listed above, other working groups can develop as opportunities and initiators arise.

IPEN Advisory Group – the process is underway to form the initial Advisory Board who will help on all general IPEN activities and structures as well as the formation and actions of the working groups. Our aim is to have one female and male from each continent, with Latin America and North America.



IPEN will also be working with **The Formidable Vegetable Sound System** this year to start translating and adapting some of their [amazing educational songs](#) to enable greater access in more countries!

Partner Action

CoLab update – The permaculture [Collaborative Laboratory](#) continues to

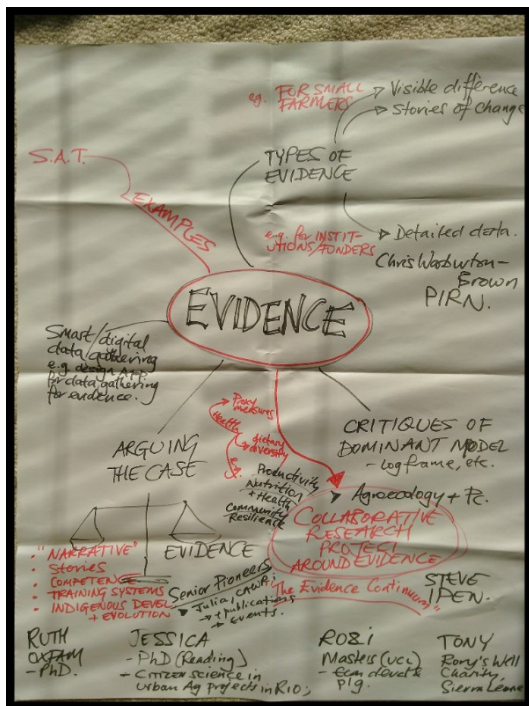
develop, including a fantastic outcome from the IPC in India December 2017. IPEN looks forward to being part of CoLab projects and development as well as joining with other CoLab groups on various projects and activities.

Permaculture and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) – a group of people from around the world are working to support and promote permaculture in DRR, disaster prevention and emergency preparedness – if you want to know more and be involved please join the mailing list at

<https://lists.riseup.net/www/subscribe/permaculturedrr>

Tropical Permaculture Guidebook - with 12 chapters now online and the rest to follow soon, the English version is nearing completion. The next stage will be to develop translations in multiple languages of the tropical regions.

Permaculture and international development – a taster event was held in London on April 18th, a 1/2 day intro session for development workers and it was very rewarding for all involved. A 5-day [Permaculture for Development Workers course](#) will be held in September in Herefordshire. These are part of a process of building ongoing engagement with the international development movement, to address multiple issues including food and water security, sanitation, health and nutrition, sustainable livelihoods, and disaster risk reduction. The focus of IPEN in this area is to strongly promote permaculture education as part of development programmes, and to help develop permaculture training that meets the needs of the international development movement.



At the Permaculture and International Development taster event there was a small group discussion section, with one group focusing on evidence of success and how to gather and utilise this evidence.

Other Items

- An excellent new permaculture film [Cambio Permanente \(Permanent Change\)](#) is now available - Spanish with English subtitles, under creative commons - and they have a website coming very soon.
- PC project in Zimbabwe - film by the Leahy brother and sister team – trailer at <http://thechikukwaproject.com/> - buy \$4 for developing world, \$8 developed world.
- IPEN is an active partner contributing to progress in the Information for Action on Climate Change project, which is being led by [PIRN](#).

- David Holmgren's [Retrosuburbia](#) booklaunches continue, this photo is from the launch in Adelaide, South Australia. Courses and workshops to fit with the urban-evolution aims of the book will be developed, stay tuned for more details in coming e-newsletters.



On a personal note, earlier this year Steve and Lachlan completed their 4th quarterly 2-day plenary. Lachlan has now finished his volunteer work with the Permaculture Association Britain and has moved back to Adelaide, Australia where he will be continuing IPEN work.



Lachlan and Steve with Andy Goldring from Permaculture Association Britain

ACTIONS for you!

Our survey highlighted the need for more appropriate teaching resources in more languages. **Please email us your best example of a permaculture teaching resource** that you are happy to share and we will include it in our resource list

Let us know if you are part of a local, regional or national collaborating group of teachers and course organisers – we are calling these Teaching Guilds – **we will establish a directory** of these and aim to support them with useful information, resources and connections. **If you are not part of one, think about helping to form one** – here are two established examples:

- Designed Visions (UK)
- Permaculture Educators Guild SE Victoria, Australia

Coming soon!

In the next few weeks and months we'll be emailing you about specific projects that you can get involved with and working groups to join. We'll also be asking for ideas from you about what you would like to create with this collective of over 100 educators worldwide (and it's only the beginning!).

Please pass on this IPEN Newsletter to other people and groups involved growing and strengthening permaculture education.

Thanks for being a part of the change!